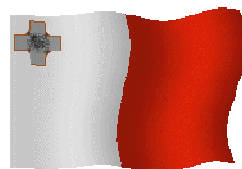




MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan  
Radio Amateurs

Number 20

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## Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

### From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for November 2007, which is issue 20 of this series.

In this issue we are posting some photos of the BBQ that we had last September that we did not have a chance to put them in the October issue. Thus, those who could not come for some reason or other may be encouraged to come next time. Thanks for the photos to **9H5KS**.

In the next December issue we will also bring you photos of radio amateurs who took part with the cooperation of the Civil Protection Department in the Lejl Imdawwal held at the beginning of October in Valletta.

We will also bring you some photos of the “Pasta Night” that we had at the MARL Club on Saturday 27 October.

We are spreading the photos on different issues so that we will maintain the size of the magazine as usual and we will also have space for some information, as well as to maintain your interest in the magazine.

We have also had a meeting with the Malta Communications Authority about some issues connected with our hobby details of which you will find further down.

Presently the World Telecommunications Conference is meeting where there are a number of proposals that are of interest to us radio amateurs. Further down you will find some details about these proposals, and while we hope that they will be approved by the Conference, we hope that in the next issue we will be able to give further information about whether they were accepted.

We remind you that the end of the year will shortly be with us. Therefore the Financial Secretary will be waiting for you to pay your membership fee for next year.

As part of the work to strengthen our society a letter was sent to all those who appear to be licensed as radio amateurs but who are not members, where they were given information about the latest developments that we had, to be encouraged to join us, and to get in touch with us if they need help in their hobby.

There were answers and also people whom we had not seen for a long time that have approached us, and we hope that everyone does all he can, as after all is the duty of every member, to make people approach us and feel that they are welcomed.

I thank all those who work and give their share in any way in the interests of our Society, while hoping that you will the information in this magazine and if you have any article please leave it in my QSL box.

**Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR**

### **We congratulate the new radio amateurs**

Today we congratulate two other persons who have succeeded in passing the examination to acquire a radio amateur licence in the examination that was held on Saturday, 20 October 2007. These are

**Lawrence Aquilina  
Joseph Borg**

We hope that it will not be long before they apply for the licence so that we can talk to them on the air.

**Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

During a meeting with the Telecommunication Authority on 12 October 2007 some things that we wish all radio amateurs to know because they are very important were clarified.

#### **FIRST POINT**

The Telecommunications Authority is going to start making inspections to radio amateur stations to measure the level of the electromagnetic field while the radio amateur will be asked to transmit with the apparatus that he has in his station.

This is going to be done so that the authorities will be certain that the electromagnetic field will not be higher than the levels that were recommended by relevant organisations because of the effects that there may be on health from electromagnetic radiation.

Such inspections have already been made on cellular telephones installations, radio and television broadcasting stations, etc due to worries that were shown by the public.

These inspections were made after there were some who expressed their worries in the media, both local as well as international, about the negative effects that there may be on human health from electromagnetic radiation.

This is therefore not something new, but every radio amateur whose station electromagnetic field has been measured and indicated that it is within the recommended values would have something to rest his case of it is needed for any reason.

## SECOND POINT

It should be said that it is better, indeed technically recommendable, that you have an amplifier capable of more power than required but use it at a lower power so that it will be idling along. Thus, the amplifier will not get too hot and will be working in a really linear manner while not generating inter-modulation products and other distortion products.

This concept is known as an engineering security factor and is obligatory when a great number of projects in all sectors are being designed. To take an example, if a building, bridge, an electrical distribution system, and every other system are being designed, but especially where there may be a danger, account must be taken of this engineering safety factor.

To understand better, if you want to lift a weight of 100 kilos you do not use a rope that can lift 100 kilos, because you will be risking that it will break, but you will use a rope which is capable of lifting a much heavier weight to be sure that it does not break.

This system is also used in hi-fi systems, where the power of the amplifier or amplifiers will be much greater than required so that the output power can be kept at the required level without distortion of the signals.

This also applies for radio frequency amplifiers, and therefore it is better to have an amplifier that is capable of a higher output than required than have one of a lower power but which will be working at its maximum to give you the **400 WATTS PEP** that we are authorized to use on **SSB**.

This is because if to give you **400 WATTS PEP** it will be working at its maximum, apart from getting very hot, the valve or valves or semiconductors will be overloaded and will have a shorter life.

Apart from this, the possibility and the probability is that it will not be operating in a linear manner, with the result that inter-modulation products and other distortion products will be generated with the risk that some interference and other undesirable effects may result, such as signals being too wide.

This means that it is better that you have a linear amplifier that is capable of much more than **400 WATTS PEP** output that we are authorized to use so that it will be operating in a truly linear manner.

We are saying this for two reasons.

First of all, every radio amateur should be proud that technologically and practically, he will have the best and highest quality signal that technology make possible to transmit.

Apart from this, it may happen that someone from the Telecommunications Authority may carry out an inspection that we have previously mentioned and tells the radio amateur to transmit **to transmit with maximum power**.

This does not mean that he has to transmit with the full power that the amplifier is capable of transmitting if it can give an output greater than **400-WATT PEP**, but only means that the power should be up to **400 WATTA PEP** and under no circumstances exceed **400 WATT PEP on SSB** which is the maximum power that radio amateurs can presently use.

Therefore, the words **maximum power** means the **maximum power that radio amateurs are authorized to use** and not the maximum power that the apparatus, that is, the linear amplifier is capable of giving.

This does not affect those that have permission to use higher power for moon-bounce, that is, when signals are sent to the moon to be reflected back for this communications system. They can still use the level that they are authorized to use when using this system.

### **POINT THREE**

The third point that the Telecommunications Authority wished us to convey to you is about apparatus that is imported from e-bay.

Apparatus that is imported has to have the CE mark on it because otherwise it could not be authorized for use in Malta.

This is as is required by European Union regulations which regulations were imported into the laws of Malta because they are applicable in all member countries.

Therefore, whoever is going to import similar apparatus from countries that are not members of the European Union should be careful that it has this mark because he will not be allowed to take the apparatus.

If there is some difficulty or he is not certain about this he should communicate with the Telecommunications Authority with the equipment specifications so as to prevent complications when the equipment is imported because the apparatus will be withheld.

**Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR**

### **World Radio Conference**

This report on the World Radio Conference is based on a report prepared by David Sumner, K1ZZ.

From 22 October to 16 November the World Radio Conference is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This is interesting for radio amateurs because there are a number of proposals that impinge on our hobby.

The Mexican administration proposed that the Table of Frequencies be amended to grant a secondary allocation to radio amateurs on a worldwide basis between **5.260 MHz – 5.410 MHz**.

This frequency is between the **3.5 MHz** and the **7 MHz** frequencies. Under certain conditions when the highest usable frequency will be less than **7 MHz** while the lowest usable frequency that may be used will be more than **3.5 MHz**, propagation on **5 MHz** is ideal.

Experiments have shown that such an allocation is very important for radio amateurs to give their help by providing communications during some disaster where the telecommunications infrastructure cannot be used.

Some European administrations made a common proposal for a note to be added that states that administrations may allow stations of the amateur radio service to operate between **5.260 MHz – 5.410 MHz** on a secondary basis. Stations should not use a power greater than 24 dBW (250 watts). Cuba proposed that such a proposal should be put on the agenda for the Conference that is to be held in 2011.

The Conference is also considering a secondary allocation for radio amateurs between **135.7 kHz – 137.8 kHz**. More than **20 Governments** have allowed radio amateurs to experiment on frequencies between **70 kHz** and **200 kHz**, while **15 European Governments** have given permission to radio amateurs to use frequencies between **135.7 kHz – 137.8 kHz**. There is considerable support from a great number of administrations for this proposal.

If you think that things happen quickly you should know that they are already thinking about proposals for the next conference that will probably be held in 2011 so that they can make the necessary contacts to have agreement and support for these proposals. Therefore IARU has a wish for these proposals to be put on the Conference agenda.

As you know the **50 MHz** frequency in Region 1 is between **50 MHz – 52 MHz**, while in Region 2 and 3 it is between **50 MHz – 54 MHz**. Therefore there is a wish for a proposal for this allocation to be the same world-wide, that is, the frequency will be between **50 MHz – 54 MHz**.

As you also know there are a number of countries that have given an allocation on **500 kHz** to radio amateurs to experiment on because it is no longer used for the maritime service. Therefore work is being done for a proposal to have a primary or secondary allocation to radio amateurs between **495 kHz – 510 kHz** to be able to develop an emergency service using ground-wave.

Another wished proposal on the agenda is to continue to grant allocations higher than **275 GHz** to radio amateurs.

Another wish for a proposal is that although it is not certain that there will be a revision, if ITU Member States decide to revise HF allocations there will be an increase of the **10 MHz**, **14 MHz** and **18 MHz** bands.

As you can see we are expecting developments that there is no doubt that they are interesting for radio amateurs.

## What has happened so far

This part is being written on Friday, 2 November and therefore if there will be other news before this magazine is put on the internet we will update it.

At the end of the second week of the Conference that is last for 4 weeks no firm conclusions have yet been reached about the proposals for radio amateurs.

Proposal for re-allocations between **4 MHz** and **10 MHz** have bogged down, where those who are against expansion for broadcasting on HF do not want any changes.

From the broadcasters' side the greater part of which are from Europe it appears that they have reduced their demand from **350 kHz** to **200 kHz**, but it appears no one wants to give way.

Due to the stoppage of the re-allocations between **4 MHz** and **10 MHz** the proposal for a **5 MHz** allocation to radio amateurs cannot progress. Notwithstanding that they are going to meet over the weekend it appears that there are obstacles and no great progress is expected and there is lack of time for all the work.

It had earlier appeared that there will be agreement on a secondary allocation for radio amateurs between **135.7 kHz** and **137.8 kHz**, but some Arab administrations are still not satisfied and more work needs to be done.

This morning (Friday 2 November) the allocation was approved at the Group 4C level with two footnotes, one limiting the power to **1 Watt EIRP** and the second one leaves the administrations in Region 1 not to grant an allocation if they so wish.

Saudi Arabia repeated its opposition and asked that this is noted in the Group report to Committee 4. This allocation still has to be approved by Committee 4 and the Plenary. The next Committee 4 meeting is to be held next Tuesday, 6 November.

International mobile telephone companies want a greater spectrum for themselves and are eyeing between **2.3 GHz** to **2.4 GHz** where there is a radio amateur allocation. We should therefore keep an eye for any developments that there may be and we should do all we can for this threat not to succeed by using all frequencies as much as possible.

A good development is that a number of countries have agreed to remove the footnotes that they had made about allocations on **160 metres**, **80 metres**, **6 metres** and **70 centimetres**. These footnotes had allowed these countries not to give or not to give all allocations according to what had been agreed on international and regional allocations.

On Saturday 3 November discussions had to start on the agenda for the next Conference where there are proposals on the above-mentioned allocations, that is, **500 kHz**, **5 MHz** and **50 MHz** in Region 1.

There are more than 40 proposals for this agenda and around half of them will be removed from the next Conference agenda, although they can be proposed again for another conference.

There are a good number of radio amateurs that are representing IARU or are part of national delegations. However, we should not forget that commercial interests exert strong pressure because they have strong financial interests.

All these radio amateurs are taking part in this Conference or are in some way helping the delegates to have a good impression of the service that radio amateurs give during an emergency.

The IARU team was made up of the President Larry Price, W4RA; Ken Pulfer, VE3PU; Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, u Paul Rinaldo, W4RI. Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS, who was helping with the German radio amateur emergency communications trailer. IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, arrived on 24 October, and the IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, arrived on 30 October. Some of them will leave before the end of the Conference.

Help was also given by Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, that during the first half of the Conference was representing the [African Telecommunications Union](#).

There were also a number of national delegates, some of them part-time, including Jim Dean, VE3IQ (Canada); Ole Garpestad, LA2RR (Norway); Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T (Netherlands); Jay Oka, JA1TRC (Japan); Peter Lake, ZL2AZ (New Zealand); Keith Malcolm, VK1ZKM (Australia); Colin Thomas, G3PSM (UK); Walt Ireland, WB7CSL (USA); Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA (USA), and Joong-geun Rhee, HL1AQQ (Republic of Korea).

There were also a number of members of national delegations, licenced as well as unlicensed are being helpful and their support and cooperation is deeply appreciated.

We will keep you informed with every development.

### **500 kHz**

Since we are talking about other frequencies, on 8 October at 2.11 in the morning UTC time, VE1VDM received signals from GI4DPE on a frequency of **501.316 kHz**.

The receiver was an R75 and the antennas were two long unterminated wires 1000 feet long.

The wire directions were North/South and the other was East/West. GI4DPE's transmitter power was **100 mWatts**. VE1DVM locator is FN85ki.

**Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR**



### **A letter from a visitor**

Hi all.

I would like to use this opportunity to say thank you to MARL and its members for the assistance, contacts, welcoming and social experience before and during our visit to Malta and Gozo earlier this year.

From the first emails to Ivan, 9H1PI, the calls to Mr. John Saliba, the Honorary Consul of Malta in South Africa, the helpful people at the Security Police, Mr. Brian Sghendo from the Malta Communications Authority, the staff of Malta Air, the Strawberry festival, the Craft Market, the Gozo ferry, the Blue Grotto, the Silent City, Valetta, Maurice the Silversmith, the ice cream, the Pergola, to our flight back, truly a wonderful lifetime experience.

One of the highlights of our week's stay was the visit to the MARL HQ and the wonderful and friendly people we met there. Special thanks to Ivan 9H1PI, George 9H1AT, Robin 9H1ZZ, Christino 9H5SC, Oscar 9H1RK who assisted with his cellphone, Steve 9H1CS who offered his spare cellphone and last but not the least, Stanley 9H1LO, all who assisted and made us feel welcome.

As this was part of our first ever holiday outside South Africa, we are sure that our visit to Malta will always be part of our memories. Our friends usually ask "why Malta?" and we can't stop talking about our visit.

Thanks to Ivan, I'm now on Echolink and will drop in on your repeater from time to time.

To the people maintaining the MARL website and the MARL Newsletter, thank you and keep up the good work. I'm a regular visitor and keen reader.

Thank you.

73.

Andre – ZR6AGA, ex 9H3DP and xyl Petro.  
South Africa.

### **For Sale**

Kenwood TS 870S LM550  
Kenwood power supply PS-53 LM95  
Kenwood speaker SP-31 LM20  
Kenwood mike model MC90 £M60  
Kenwood mike model MC 70 nearly new Lm45  
Linear Amplifier Dentron GL-1000, all frequencies, new valves and transformer  
Lm250.  
SWR meter to 2000 watts  
Other things such as wire and an antenna rotator with bearings, good price.  
I can sell everything together  
Charles Gatt [toyboy@onvol.net](mailto:toyboy@onvol.net)

# Photos of the BBQ held in September 2007



9H1AQ



9H1AJ

9H1AT



9H1AJ

9H1AQ

9H1JT



9H1EI 9H1XT 9H1JT 9H1AQ



**Part of the Dutch Dxpedition**



**Congratulations and thanks to everyone who worked and helped for this BBQ to be a success, both ladies and gentlemen, especially to those who from Saturday morning set up the tables, chairs and prepared the food and those who took care of the bar, and those who on Sunday, the day after, came to clean up and wash the plates, cutlery and other items**

**On the next page are photos of repair work that was carried out on the aerals that we have at the Club that needed a good overhaul. Thanks to all those who took part and worked to repair them as well as all those who in one way or another helped and help in all the work that our Society requires from time to time.**



## Aerials repairs September 2007



Next time we are going to bring you photos of MARL members who took part in Iljeli Mdawwlin in Valletta together with the Civil Protection Department. We will also bring you Pasta Night photos that we had on Saturday 27 October, at the MARL Club.